

IN THE CLAIMS

✓ Please cancel Claims 2-12 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to refer to the parent application, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.78.

Claims 2-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter; only Claim 1 is pending.

Applicants presently intend to file a supplemental preliminary amendment in this case shortly. Should the Examiner take this case up for action before receiving the supplemental preliminary amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney.

Applicants hereby claim priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based upon the following Japanese Priority Applications:

10-348232 filed December 8, 1998

10-348438 filed December 8, 1998

11-319290 filed November 10, 1999.

Certified copies of the priority documents were submitted in the parent application. Acknowledgment of this claim and of receipt of those certified copies is respectfully requested.